

**Amendments to the Drawings**

The attached replacement drawing sheet includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1-2. In Figure 2, the legend "Prior Art" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

### REMARKS

Claims 23-32 are pending in the present application after cancellation of claims 12-22 and addition of new claims 23-32.

The Examiner has requested information to “complete the background description in the disclosure by documenting the known transmission inhibiting device as set forth in the specification (p.1, line 33 – p. 2, line 12) and Figure 2,” and documenting “the CAN transmission inhibit function (CANSTOP) of the real-time capable serial bus system (p.1, lines 10-15).” In response, Applicants note that the requested information cannot be readily obtained by Applicants at the present.

The Examiner objected to Figure 2 for not being designated as “Prior Art.” Figure 2 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner’s suggestion. It is therefore respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

Claims 12-13, 17-18, and 20-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicant regards as the invention. Claims 12-13, 17-18, and 20-21 have been canceled. Therefore, the indefiniteness rejection is now moot. Newly added Claims 23-32 do not include the phrases that form the basis of this rejection.

Claims 12-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,161,162 to Watkins (“the Watkins reference”). Claims 12-21 have been canceled and replaced with newly added Claims 23-32. For at least the following reasons, the Watkins reference does not anticipate Claims 23-32.

The Watkins reference describes a “loopback” mode for testing the data path in a system. (Watkins, col. 1, l. 57 – col. 2, l. 3). The Watkins reference does not describe a network component having **both a transmission port and a feedback port**; transmitting a test signal message onto the transmission line at the transmission port **while the logical signal is applied to a first node on the transmission line**; and analyzing a feedback signal at the feedback port, as recited in independent Claims 23 and 27.

Since the Watkins reference does not disclose each and every feature of the pending independent Claims 23 and 27, the Watkins reference does not anticipate independent Claims

23 and 27, or their dependent claims 24-26 and 28-32. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that pending claims 23-32 are allowable over Watkins.

Claims 12-13 and 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,453,014 to Jacobson (“the Jacobson reference”). Claims 12-13 and 15-21 have been canceled, and new Claims 23-32 have been added. For at least the following reasons, the Jacobson reference does not anticipate Claims 23-32.

The Jacobson reference does not describe a network component having both a transmission port and a feedback port; transmitting a test signal message onto the transmission line at the transmission port **while the logical signal is applied to a first node on the transmission line**; and analyzing a feedback signal at the feedback port, as recited in independent Claims 23 and 27.

Since the Jacobson reference does not disclose each and every feature of the pending independent Claims 23 and 27, the Jacobson reference does not anticipate independent Claims 23 and 27, or their dependent claims 24-26 and 28-32. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that pending claims 23-32 are allowable over Jacobson.

Claims 12-17 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,600,782 to Thomson (“the Thomson reference”). Claims 12-17 and 19-22 have been canceled, and new Claims 23-32 have been added. For at least the following reasons, the Thomson reference does not anticipate Claims 23-32.

The Thomson reference does not describe a network component having both a transmission port and a feedback port; transmitting a test signal message onto the transmission line at the transmission port while the logical signal is applied to a first node on the transmission line; and analyzing a feedback signal at the feedback port, as recited in independent Claims 23 and 27.

Since the Thomson reference does not disclose each and every feature of the pending independent claims 23 and 27, the Thomson reference does not anticipate independent Claims 23 and 27, or their dependent claims 24-26 and 28-32. It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that pending claims 23-32 are allowable over Thomson.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Watkins reference in view of United States Patent No. 6,031,823 to Hormel (“the Hormel

reference”), further in view of standard bus equivalents, as evidenced by United States Patent No. 6,600,723 to Reeb (“the Reeb reference”). Claim 22 has been canceled, and new Claims 23-32 have been added. For at least the following reasons, the Watkins, Hormel, and Reeb references do not render Claims 23-32 unpatentable.

As discussed above, the Watkins reference fails to disclose each and every feature of Claims 23 and 27. The Hormel and Reeb references do not overcome this deficiency of Watkins as applied against claims 23 and 27. Accordingly, the Watkins, Hormel, and Reeb references do not render obvious independent Claims 23 and 27, or their dependent Claims 24-26 and 28-32, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that claims 23-32 are allowable over the combination of Watkins, Hormel, and Reeb.

Claim 18 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Thomson reference in view of United States Patent No. 6,115,831 to Hanf (“the Hanf reference”). Claim 18 has been canceled, and new Claims 23-32 have been added. For at least the following reasons, the Thomson and Hanf references do not render Claims 23-32 unpatentable.

As discussed above, the Thomson reference fails to disclose each and every feature of Claims 23 and 27. The Hanf reference does not overcome this deficiency of Thomson as applied against claims 23 and 27. Accordingly, the Thomson and Hanf references do not render obvious independent Claims 23 and 27, or their dependent Claims 24-26 and 28-32, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that claims 23-32 are allowable over the combination of Thomson and Hanf.

**CONCLUSION**

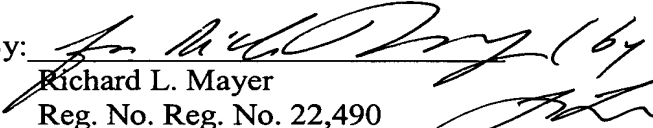
In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims 23-32 are in condition for allowance. Prompt allowance of the present application is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

KENYON & KENYON

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